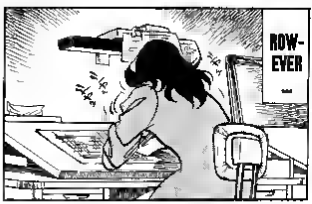
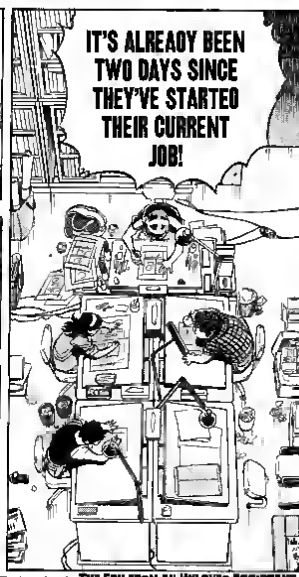
THIS TRULY IS A MANGA ARTIST'S WORKPLACE!
THEY EVEN HAVE A PRIVATE BICYCLE PARKED OUT FRONT!

BLAZING PRODUCTIONS, WHERE THE MIDNIGHT OIL ALWAYS BURNS!
THIS IS...


ROW-EVER ...

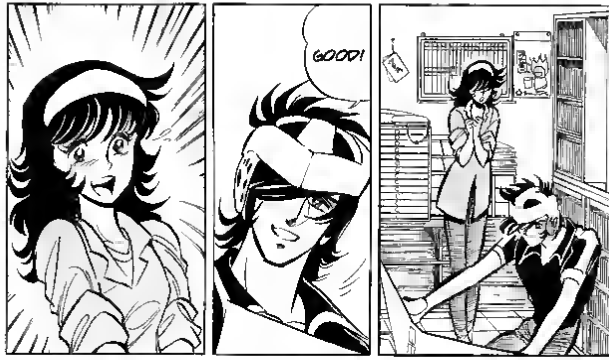

IT'S ALREADY BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE THEY'VE STARTED THEIR CURRENT JOB!

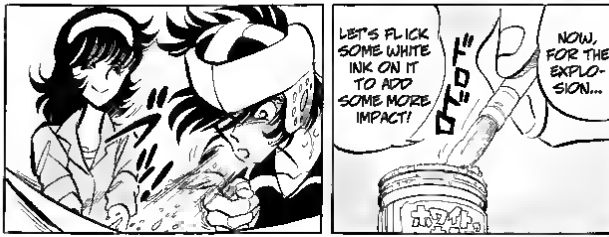
HOW-EVER!

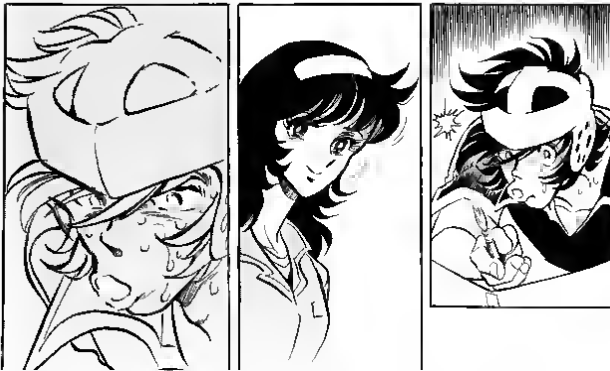
WHY IS THIS?
ROWEVER, THIS GIRL... THIS ASSISTANT, OHNO AKIKO, HASN'T HAD A WINK OF SLEEP!

Episode 4:
THE CRY FROM AN UNLOVED ASSISTANT

THIS JOB !!
I'LL NEVER FINISH
IF I DON'T FINISH DRAWING THIS DOUBLE PAGE SPREAD SOON...
I-I HAVE TO HURRY!
MR. HO-NOO !
M-
THERE!
I CAN BARELY BELIEVE IT!
OHH
WOW, NICE BACK-GROUND !
4
IT'S DONE!
MR. HO-NOO !

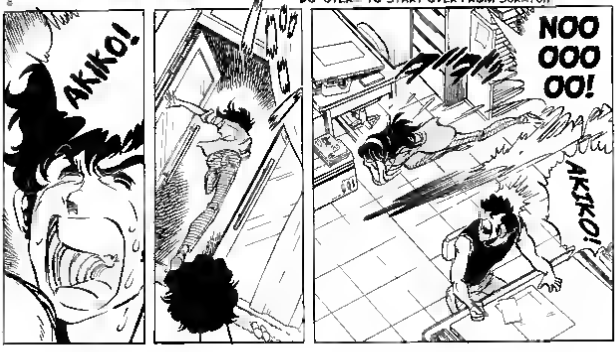

GOOD!


LET'S FLICK SOME WHITE INK ON IT TO ADD SOME MORE IMPACT!
ドロッ
NOW, FOR THE EXPLO-SION...



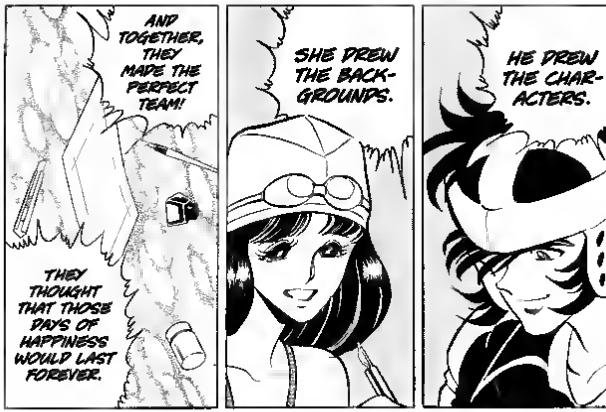
W...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MR. HONOO?

*DO-OVER... TO START OVER FROM SCRATCH

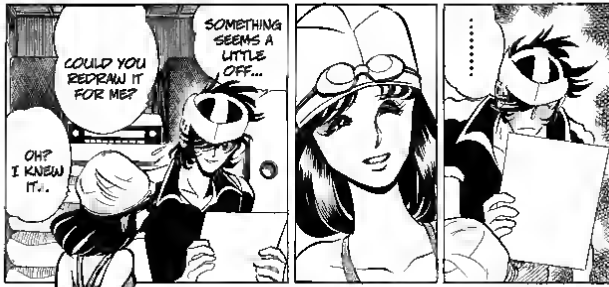


LET HER GO!
MR. HONGO!
MR. HONGO!
I JUST CAN'T WORK FOR SOMEONE LIKE HIM!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE, SHINRIN!
AKIKO...

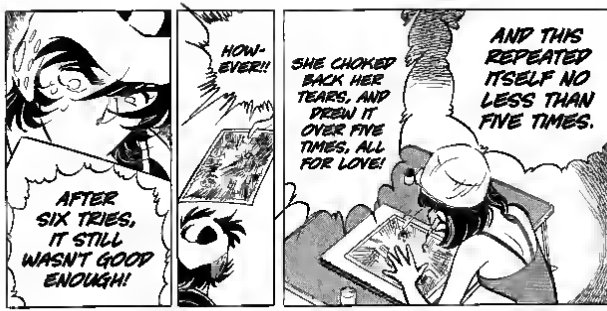
I DONT BELIEVE THAT ONE BIT!
THAT'S HOW WE ALL ARE AT FIRST...
MR. HONOO IS THE ONE THAT SUFFERS THE MOST BY ORDERING A DO-OVER.
LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY, AKIKO...
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE MY LIFE OVER THAT!
THAT'S HIS PROBLEM, THEN!
BUT MR. HONOO IS RISKING HIS LIFE ON THESE WORKS!
.....
10
THERE WAS A WOMAN THAT HE LOVED FROM THE BOTTOM OF HIS HEART.
AND SHE WAS WORKING AS ONE OF HIS ASSISTANTS.
A LONG TIME AGO— WHEN MR. HONOO WAS FIRST STARTING OUT...
LISTEN, AKIKO...
THEY SWORE TO EACH OTHER...
THAT THEY WOULD MAKE IT!

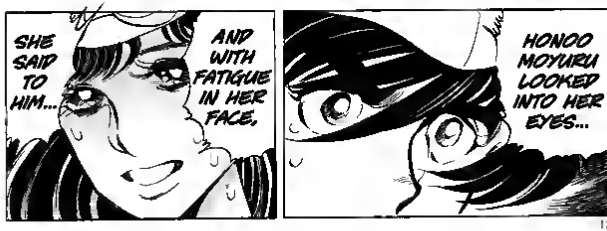

AND TOGETHER, THEY MADE THE PERFECT TEAM!
THEY THOUGHT THAT THOSE DAYS OF HAPPINESS WOULD LAST FOREVER.
SHE DREW THE BACK-GROUNDS.
HE DREW THE CHAR-ACTERS.

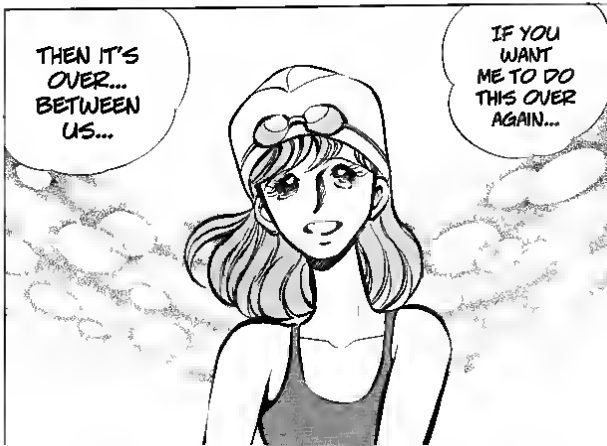
UNTIL ONE DAY...



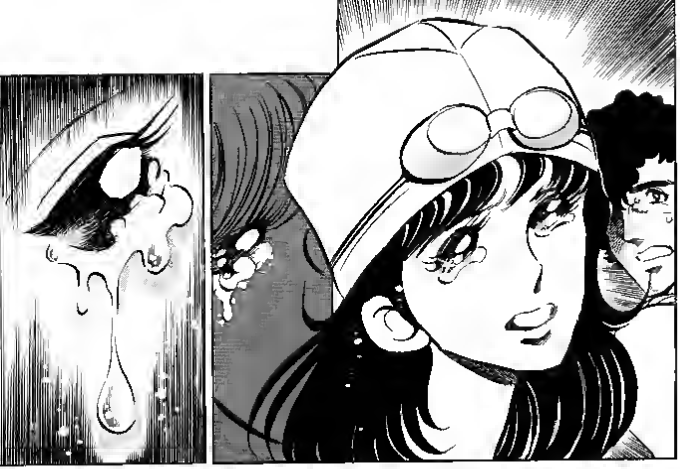
I'LL REDRAW IT RIGHT AWAY!
I ALSO THOUGHT SOMETHING SEEM ODD, TOO.
CAN I TAKE A LOOK?
THERE, I'M DONE!!
12
SHOULD I DO IT OVER AGAIN?
NOT GOOD ENOUGH?
UH... YEAH...


AFTER SIX TRIES, IT STILL WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH!
HOW-EVER!!
SHE CHOKED BACK HER TEARS, AND DREW IT OVER FIVE TIMES, ALL FOR LOVE!
AND THIS REPEATED ITSELF NO LESS THAN FIVE TIMES.

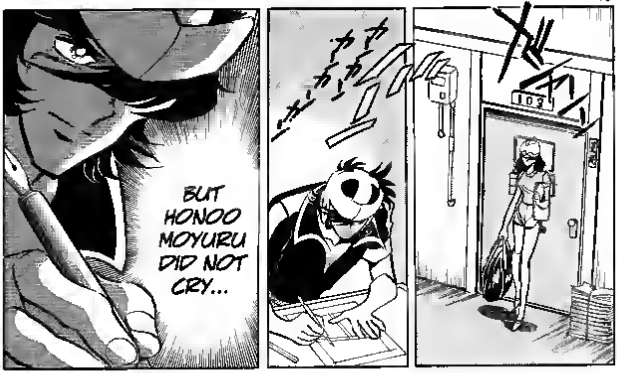

SHE SAID TO HIM...
AND WITH FATIGUE IN HER FACE,
HONOO MOYURU LOOKED INTO HER EYES...


THEN IT'S OVER... BETWEEN US...
IF YOU WANT ME TO DO THIS OVER AGAIN...

WHAT DID MR. HONDO SAY!?
SHIN-RIN!
WHAT HAP-PENED NEXT!!?
SO-
DO-OVER
...



15



THAT HE CRIED HIS HEART OUT.
BGYYYY
AAAHHH!!
IT WAS ONLY AFTER HE FINISHED THE MANUSCRIPT
HE DIDN'T SHED A SINGLE TEAR!
BUT UNTIL THE MANUSCRIPT WAS DONE,

YES!
UNTIL THE MANUSCRIPT WAS DONE ...?

I'LL DRAW IT!
SHIN-RIN!
17
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, AKIKO!!
I'LL DRAW THAT INFERNAL SPREAD AS MANY TIMES AS I NEED TO!
I'LL DRAW IT ONE MORE TIME... NO!

PTOEW!
MR. HONDO!
GOOD!
18
THE TRIALS OF A MANGA ARTIST ARE NOT OVER YET! KEEP PRESSING FORWARD, AKIKO! UNTIL THE DAY YOU STRIKE OUT ON YOUR OWN!
LEAVE HER ALONE!
AKIKO!
NOOOOOOOOOO!

BURNING PEN

CHAPTER 4 PRESENTED BY HOKUTO NO GUN

STORY AND ART BY: KAZUHIKO [illegible]
ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY: KAT [illegible]
TRANSLATION CHECK BY: SYSTEMA [illegible]
EDITING BY: KAZUHIKO